



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Oneida County

121 Second Street
Oriskany, NY 13424-3924
t.315-736-3394
f.315-736-2580

November 20, 2025, DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Hart's Hill Inn, 135 Clinton Street, Whitesboro, NY

| | Count | Board Member | Position | Term | Expiration |
|---|-----------|------------------|--|------|------------|
| | 1 | Anna Weeks | President - STEM / Community Connections | 2 | 12/31/2027 |
| X | 2 | Sue Carvelli | Vice-President – Rome Community Schools / BOCES | 2 | 12/31/2025 |
| | 3 | Hollie Wolanski | Secretary / Education | 2 | 12/31/2027 |
| | 4 | Dick Presky | Treasurer / Insurance / Genesis | 1 | 12/31/2026 |
| | 5 | John Brouillette | At-Large / Agriculture | 1 | 12/31/2027 |
| X | 6 | Kathryn Festine | At-Large / Legal | 1 | 12/31/2027 |
| X | 7 | Rosanne Loparco | At-Large / Master Gardener / Finance | 1 | 12/31/2026 |
| | 8 | Howard Regner | At-Large Agriculture / Farm / Education | 1 | 12/31/2025 |
| | 9 | Paul Sears | At-Large / Master Gardener / STEM | 1 | 12/31/2026 |
| X | 10 | Shaila Singh | At-Large / Education | 1 | 12/31/2027 |
| | 11 | Debbie Spinella | At-Large Agriculture / Education | 2 | 12/31/2027 |
| | 12 | Vacant | Vacant | | |
| X | Appointed | George Joseph | Legislative Representative | N/A | N/A |
| X | Appointed | Paul O'Connor | State Extension Specialist | N/A | N/A |

Staff/Community Attendance

| | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Mary Beth McEwen | Executive Director | CCE Oneida County |
| 2 | Bonnie Backman | SBN Finance | CCE Oneida County |
| 3 | Lori North | Director of Ops. | CCE Oneida County |

| 2025 Board Schedule | Description |
|---------------------|--|
| January 23 | Reorganization Board Meeting |
| February 27 | Committee Meetings / Board Orientation, 5:30PM food and 6:00PM, General Overview of Programs |
| March 27 | Board Meeting, 6:00PM |
| April 24 | Committee Meetings 6:00 |
| May 22 | Board Meeting, 6:00PM |
| June 26 | Board Meeting – Audit Presentation, Dermody, Burke & Brown 6:00PM |
| July 24 | Committee – Boonville Fair Legislative BBQ |
| August | No Meeting Scheduled |
| September 25 | Board Meeting |
| October 23 | Annual Meeting |
| November 20 | Board Meeting |
| December | No Meeting Scheduled |

Call to Order: (7:26 PM)

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to approve September 24, 2025, Board meeting minutes.

Vote:

Motioned by: Dick Presky
Seconded by: Debbie Spinella
Discussion: No discussion
Motion Carried: Unanimous

Finance:

- Review 3rd Quarter 2025 financials. – Bonnie Backman

Motion to accept the CCE Oneida County 2025 3rd quarter financials pending Cornell Cooperative Extension Administration year-end review.

Vote:

Motioned by: Paul Sears
Seconded by: Howard Regner
Discussion: No Discussion
Motion Carried: Unanimous

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

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- 4H Club Rollover – Permission for Oneida County 4-H Teen Council and Oneida Equine 4-H clubs to carry over funds.

Motion to allow Oneida County 4-H Teen Council and Oneida Equine 4-H clubs to carry over funding in the amount of \$8,648.63 and \$3,906.56, respectively

Vote:

Motioned by: Dick Presky
Seconded by: Paul Sears
Discussion: No Discussion
Motion Carried: Unanimous

Board President's Report:

- Board Open Position – 1 Year Appointment – Mary Kline

Vote:

Motioned by: Dick Presky
Seconded by: Debbie Spinella
Discussion: No Discussion
Motion Carried: Unanimous

Executive Director's Report:

- Using 2025 time for January 2nd 2026.
 - The board did not make a motion to approve.
- Women's Fund Grant Award - \$5,870 – Technical Assistance for Women in Agriculture
- Adirondack Bank - \$5,000.00 award
- Urban Farms and Community Agriculture - \$49,887.00
- AG Forum – CCE & The Genesis Group
- Marketing / Did You Know Messages
 - Howard asked if these could also be sent to the board. Lori will let Alex know to include the board in these emails.
 - We will remind Alex to work on CCE fact cards/messages for the board.
- Grants Currently in Process:
 - Dairy Farm Improvement - In Process
 - NY Farm Viability Grant Program – In Process
 - AG & Markets – Youth Opportunity Day – In Process
 - NE Regional IPM Partnerships – In Process
 - NE Extension Risk Management – Submitted
 - Seed to Supper – Submitted
 - Cornell Engaged Opportunity Grant – Spring 2026
 - Mary Beth will email board a summary of scope of work for grants we have received and grants in process.

Executive Session if Required: None required

Adjourn: Time: (7:59PM)

Vote:

Motioned by: Dick Presky

Seconded by: Paul Sears

Discussion: No Discussion

Motion Carried: Unanimous